

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: I know people are tired of discussing this, and obviously from a motion not being filed to adjourn, I assume that they want to come to some kind of a conclusion today on this and be able to, as far as I've talked to people, be able to be one of those states, one more will be number 13 it looks like, I hope that's not a symbol (laugh) of things to come, but of ratifying this constitutional...or Conference of the States resolution. But I'll tell you one thing, after the discussion that we've had here, no one can say that they didn't vote one way or another on this thing, informed of either the fact that we don't have answers to a whole lot of questions, or that you had the opportunity, as you do in Senator Chambers' indefinite postponement here, that you didn't have the opportunity to kill this, or that you didn't have an opportunity to discuss it. So you are going to have to go out and explain to people your position on this. And it's not something that you can say, oh, nothing will happen here, because the people who are putting this together have every intention of making things happen at this Conference of States. And no matter what people wanted to say, the things that they're going for are changes to the United States Constitution. They'll be one of the first things discussed there. And I would imagine the agenda will be going into that direction of approving those. And we'll have, in this Legislature next session, a petition to ratify those changes. And people are saying, well, at that time we can make our decision then on how we feel about them. But you'll have the same people pushing for the same amendments to the Constitution. Why go through all that process, why go through the expense and the time that we've gone through here if you don't believe in it? If you vote for this and you sincerely believe in it, if you sincerely believe that there is an imbalance in our Constitution, that states don't have enough rights and that you need to give them more through a constitutional change, then you need to do some fundamental structural changes, as Governor Nelson says, we need to do on the Constitution; if you don't believe that, then you should vote for this indefinite postponement, because that's what the individuals involved in The Conference of States are going to do. This is what they're trying to do. This is the process that they've begun. If you don't believe it, then why give the vote at all? Why go ahead and start it? And if you don't have answers and you're not